

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter sets the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting and trapping furbearers.

These amendments add Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury Counties to the area open for taking bobcat. The amendments also increase the quota from 400 to 500 for river otters and from 150 to 200 for bobcats. The amendments eliminate the restrictions on beaver trapping in Linn County.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on April 9, 2008, as **ARC 6703B**. A public hearing was held on April 29, 2008, and 15 comments were received. An additional 9 written comments were received. The comments about the Notice included requests to open bobcat season statewide and increase limits while other comments requested that the DNR not allow hunting or trapping of bobcats and river otters. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87 and 481A.90.

These amendments shall become effective August 20, 2008.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 108.7(2) as follows:

**108.7(2) Open area.** River otters may be taken statewide. Bobcats may be taken in the following counties: Adams, Appanoose, Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Fremont, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson, Lee, Lucas, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, ~~and~~ Wayne, and Woodbury.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **108.7(3)“b”** as follows:

*b. Quotas.* The quota for the number of river otters that may be taken is ~~400~~ 500 statewide. The quota for the number of bobcats that may be taken is ~~150~~ 200 in the open area. The season shall end for river otters when the number of river otters trapped, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~400~~ 500. The season shall end for bobcats when the number of bobcats taken, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~150~~ 200. Trappers shall be allowed a 48-hour grace period after the quota is reached to clear their traps of river otters or bobcats. River otters or bobcats found in traps during the grace period may be kept even though the quota is exceeded provided that the trapper has not reached the trapper’s personal bag limit. River otters or bobcats trapped after the grace period or in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the trapper shall not be penalized.

ITEM 3. Rescind and reserve subrule **108.9(2)**.

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